

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's failure to negotiate is unprecedented. Yesterday, he finally invited congressional leaders to meet at the White House, but no progress was made. The President, instead, issued an ultimatum, telling Congress that he is not willing to negotiate.

Our Nation is quickly approaching a deadline where we will no longer be able to pay our bills. This morning, I received a six-page memo from the Treasury Department outlining the disastrous impacts of defaulting.

Every American family knows the consequences of exceeding the maximum on our credit cards. Responsible Americans do not send white papers warning of a crisis; we find ways to reduce spending so we can spend within our means.

It's time for the President to take his responsibilities seriously. The only way to make progress is to sit down with congressional Republicans and find a commonsense solution.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DO ITS JOB AND GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today's on behalf of the many unemployed Americans who are looking for work, people who need a fair shot at entering the workforce so they can earn a living for themselves and their family.

It's a travesty that the same partisan gridlock that shut down the government on the American people has also kept us from passing a bipartisan jobs bill this Congress.

Government shouldn't be closed for business. Hardworking Americans deserve a government that works overtime to create jobs and promote a strong economy. The families I represent deserve better, and the American people deserve better.

This Friday, I'm hosting a job fair at South Suburban College in my district. Over 50 employers will be on hand to offer jobs to individuals looking for work. I know they'll be impressed by the talented men and women we have in Illinois' Second Congressional District.

Enough with the distractions. Americans want jobs. Businesses want to create jobs. And it's time that Congress did its job and passed legislation to get Americans back to work.

BE FAIR TO HOOSIERS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3232, the Support Our Armed Forces Act.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I'm pleased to introduce this bill today with Congressman COOK of California. This commonsense piece of legislation makes sure that all employees of the Department of Defense work and get paid during the government shutdown.

Specifically, the Support Our Armed Forces Act extends pay to the National Guard, Reservists, dual service technicians, and all civilian Department of Defense employees and contractors during this period of time.

Indiana's Second District is home to Grissom Air Reserve Base in Miami County. Since October 1, reports state that over 600 full-time civilian employees and Air Force Reservists have been furloughed at Grissom Air Reserve Base.

I think it's unfair and unsafe for Congress to jeopardize employment for these very individuals who devote their lives to fight for the continued security of this country.

This bill provides essential support for hundreds of hardworking Hoosiers and Guardsmen in Miami County to guarantee the readiness of that base.

Congress has an obligation to protect this Nation, to support the men and women who wear the uniform bravely and work behind the scenes to provide equipment, training and essential support for the armed services.

STOP PLAYING GAMES AND PASS A CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, here we are, Day 4 of the government shutdown, all because the Republican majority didn't get their way on a bill 3 years ago.

They're so obsessed, in fact, with eliminating the Affordable Care Act that they're willing to risk the functions of the United States Government, just to prove a point. It's really amazing and, yet, so sad.

And now that they've seen the polls and realize the American people don't support what they're doing, their response is to pass a few bills to only reopen a few agencies within the government. Again, amazing.

We need to open the whole government. And yet, congressional Republicans don't care about the consequences of a shutdown, even though they're significant.

Thousands of people are furloughed. Critical programs and services across the country have been shuttered, and all because congressional Republicans are in denial of the Affordable Care Act. It is the law of land and has been for 3 years, and has survived 42 legislative attempts to repeal it.

It's time to move on. This is not a serious, responsible way to run the United States of America, and you

know it. Stop playing games and pass a clean continuing resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair would ask that all Members use the proper form in asking to be recognized for 1 minute speeches.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I'm going to show you some pictures today.

This is a picture of the World War II Veterans Memorial being shut down. I want to find out who ordered these signs because these were up the very next morning. And plus, you know, what may be a Chicago sign painter that got this order, who gave him the order, and where did we get all the barricades.

Here's another one. This is a park in Washington, D.C. You can see the kids and stuff playing. It's got a sign that it's shut down.

So these things are normally open-air. They're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. But yet, now they're closed.

I wonder if the golf courses on our Federal property and our military bases are closed?

It doesn't look like they are right now, but we'll see if we can't get them some barricades.

LISTEN TO THE FAMILIES ACROSS THIS COUNTRY

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, despite the GOP's best efforts, health care exchanges across this country opened. In the first 24 hours, healthcare.gov was visited by 4.7 million visitors. In Massachusetts, where we've had an exchange for years, thousands began the process of signing up for expanded care.

Yesterday, in one of the local papers in my district, the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, a reader wrote about the benefits that people are already enjoying under the Affordable Care Act.

This grateful parent stated:

I have been happy with ObamaCare. For the past 2 years, my two recent college grads have been on my insurance. We have saved over \$4,000. Originally, one was kicked off our plan at age 22. Republicans say young and healthy kids do not need insurance. They are wrong. One of our children was hit by a car walking, and the other had gallbladder surgery. The hospital bills were over \$50,000.

It is evident that families all over this country are grateful that their loved ones will have access to affordable health coverage. To my colleagues across the aisle, please listen to them.